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THE FOURTH MARINES AND THE
SINO-JAPANESE "INCIDENT" ...

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THE FOURTH MARINES

and the Sino-Japanese "Incident" of 1937

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By

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United States Marine Corps.

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THE FOURTH MARINES

and the Sino-Japanese "incident" of 1937.

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On Friday, 13 August, 1937, the tense situation which had prevailed in Shanghai in consequence of the Hungjao Airdrome Incident in which a Japanese subaltern and one seamen were shot by members of the Chinese Peace Preservation Corps, reached its climax. At 9:15 that morning sniping broke out between outposts in the Darroch Road and Dixwell Road areas, and continued, intermittently, spreading to Ningpo Road and districts in east Chapei. In the afternoon at about 4:00 o'clock the Chinese military destroyed the Patzechiao (Eight Character Bridge) and several other bridges in the North Paoshan Road district, and an exchange of artillery fire occurred for about one hour. Quiet then prevailed until dusk when the artillery fire was resumed and Japanese vessels of war anchored in the Whangpoo River opened up with a bombardment on the Jukong Wharf.

The Chinese troops spent the day in a whirlwind of activity, wiring and sandbagging their positions in Chapei and along Soochow Creek, and also put forth some effort toward strengthening their boom across the Whangpoo River off Nantao.

No.1 Refugees pouring into the International Settlement at outbreak of incident.

SHANGHAI AND VICINITY
at the commencement of Sino-Japanese
hostilities, 1937.

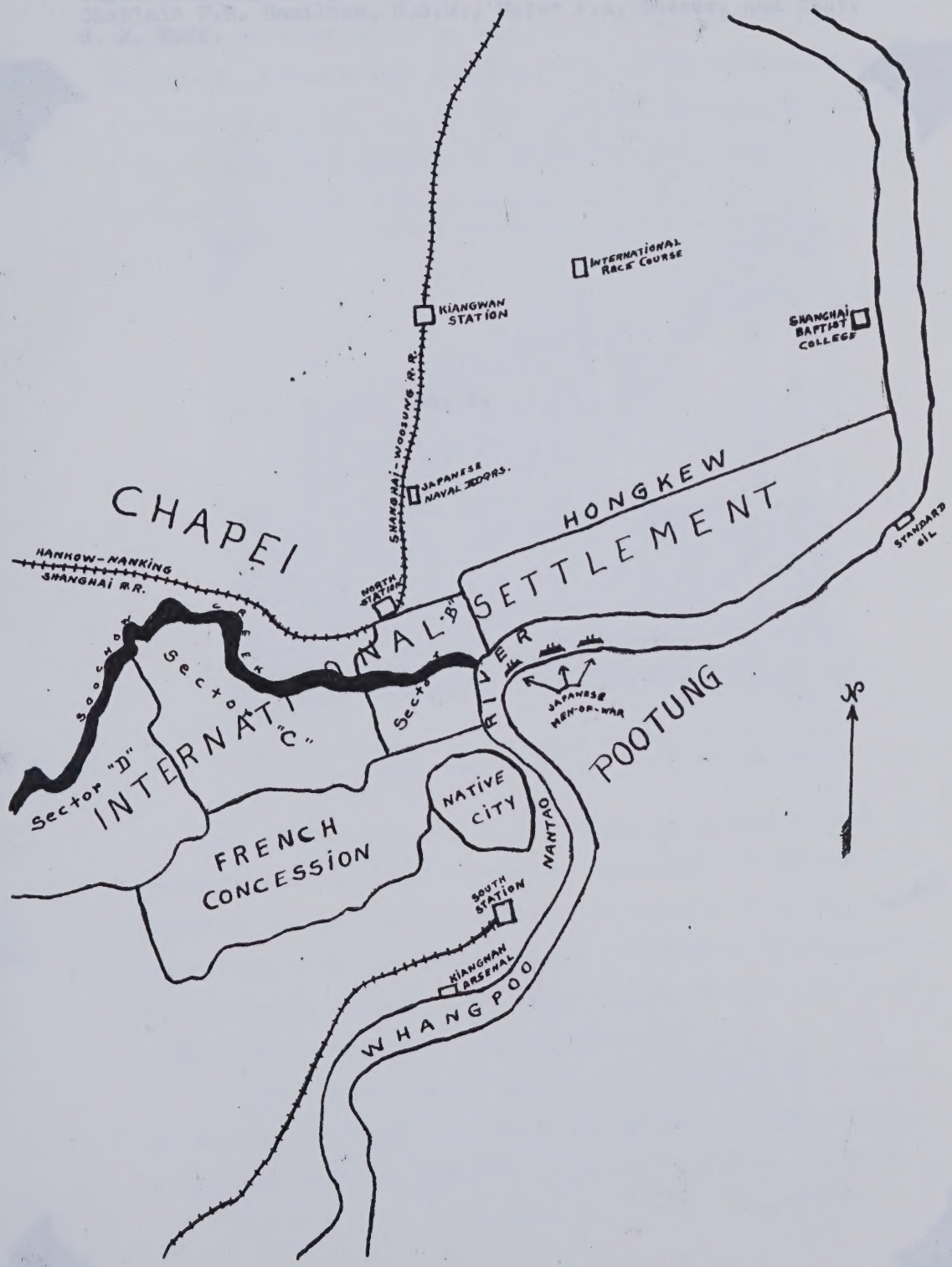

PLATE "A"

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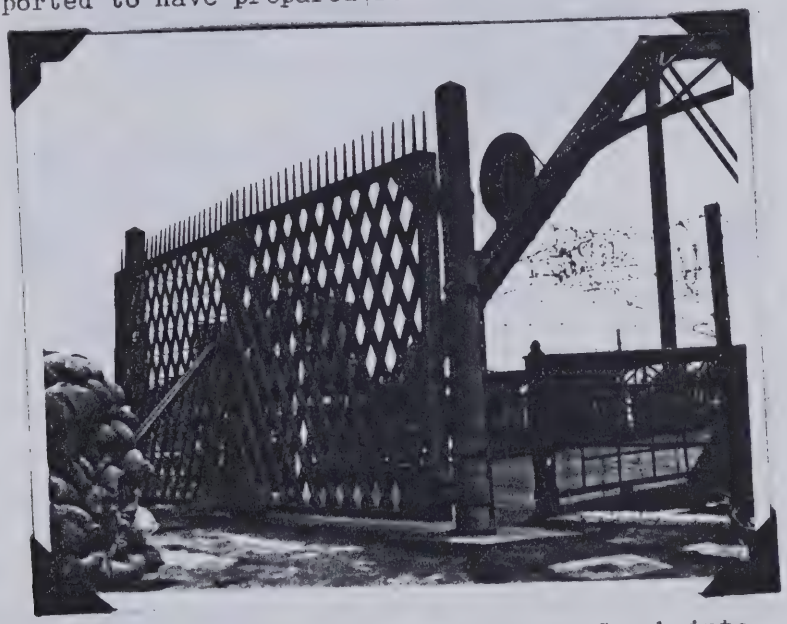
https://archive.org/details/fourthmarinessin00aldr

Staff of the Commanding Officer, 4th Marines, Shanghai, China, at the commencement of hostilities: Front row, left to right: Major H.N. Stent, Lieut-Col. W.H. Rupertus, Colonel Chas. F. B. Price (Commanding Officer), Lieut-Col. R. Winans, Commander V.H. Carson (MC), U.S.N.; second row: Captain R.A. Boone, Major L.S. Swindler, Lieut-Col. H.C. Pierce, Major M.A. Edson, Capt. W.M. Greene, Jr.; third row: Major M.J. Kelleher, 1st Lt.V.H. Krulak, Capt. R.E. Hogaboom, Major B.G. Jones; back row: Major R.E. West, Chaplain F.R. Hamilton, U.S.N., Major P.A. Lesser, and Capt. H. R. Huff.

No. 2.

The U. S. S. SACRAMENTO anchored off the Shanghai Power Plant, an American concern, and landed a detachment of marines and blue jackets to protect the installation.

Saturday, August 14th, dawned with the Chinese troops occupying in force the area just north of Sector "C" guarded by the Fourth United States Marines. The northern approaches to all bridges leading into the International Settlement across Soochow Creek were, therefore, commanded by Chinese troops who were reported to have prepared for their demolition.



No. 3 - Stone Bridge crossing Soochow Creek into the right sector of the American defense area.

At 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon of August 14th, the Fourth Marines officially declared a state of emergency and entered into execution of the plan for security of foreign lives in, and the integrity of, the International Settlement, in conjunction with the other foreign forces stationed in Shanghai with, of course, the exception of the Japanese.

The main line of resistance of the Fourth Marines was the Soochow Creek from Yu Ya Ching Road (on the right) to the International Boundary (both exclusive) on the left.

On the right of the marine sector stretched the defense positions of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps, known as Sector "B";

No. 4 - The Fourth Marines "dig in" on the Soochow Creek front. Filling sand bags.

to the left of the American positions the British troops, under command of then Brigadier A. P. D. Telfer-Smollett, D.S.O., M.C., concurrently senior commandant, occupied what was known as Sector "D". For a more comprehensive understanding of these positions reference should be made to Plate "A", map of the Shanghai area at the commencement of the Sino-Japanese "incident".

No. 5 - A machine gun emplacement on a promontory of Soochow Creek in the 2nd Battalion area.

The detachment of approximately one hundred Japanese seamen that had been stationed in the barracks at the corner of Penang and Gordon Roads, and all other Japanese forces, were withdrawn from the American Sector on August 14th.

Organization of the defense of the sector provided:

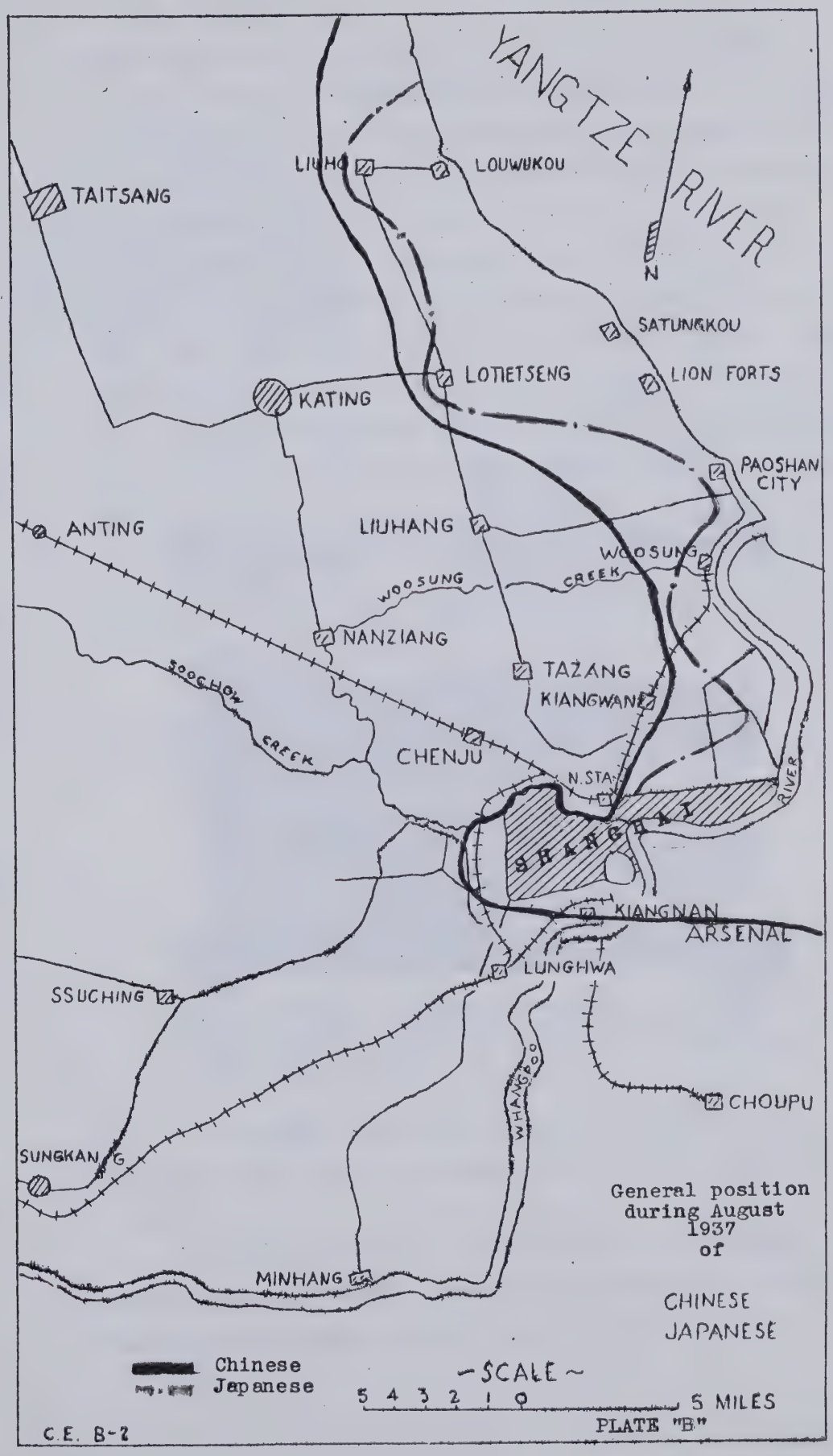
(a) Entrenchments and sandbag emplacements for all combat groups, machine gun emplacements, howitzer weapons, observation posts.

(b) Protective wire around all combat groups on the main line of resistance.

(c) Continuous wire along Soochow Creek.

No. 6 - Barbed wire entanglements along Soochow Creek, the Fourth Marine Front.

The positions on the perimeter (as the defense line is referred to) were manned quietly and efficiently, the various organizations proceeding to their stations with speed and confidence engendered by long training and frequent practice manoeuvers in anticipation of just such an emergency. The first battalion manned the left front and the second battalion the right front of the American Sector ("C").


YANGTZE RIVER
N
TAITSANG
LIUHO
LOUWUKOU
SATUNGKOU
LOTIETSENG
LION FORTS
KATING
PAOSHAN CITY
ANTING
LIUHANG
WOOSUNG
WOOSUNG CREEK
NANZIANG
TAZANG
KIANGWAN
SOOCHOW CREEK
CHENJU
N.STA.
RIVER
SHANGHAI
KIANGNAN ARSENAL
LUNGHWA
SSUCHING
WHANGPOO
CHOUPU
SUNGKANG
MINHANG
General position during August 1937 of
CHINESE
JAPANESE
Chinese
Japanese
-SCALE-
5 4 3 2 1 0 5 MILES
C.E. B-2
PLATE "B"

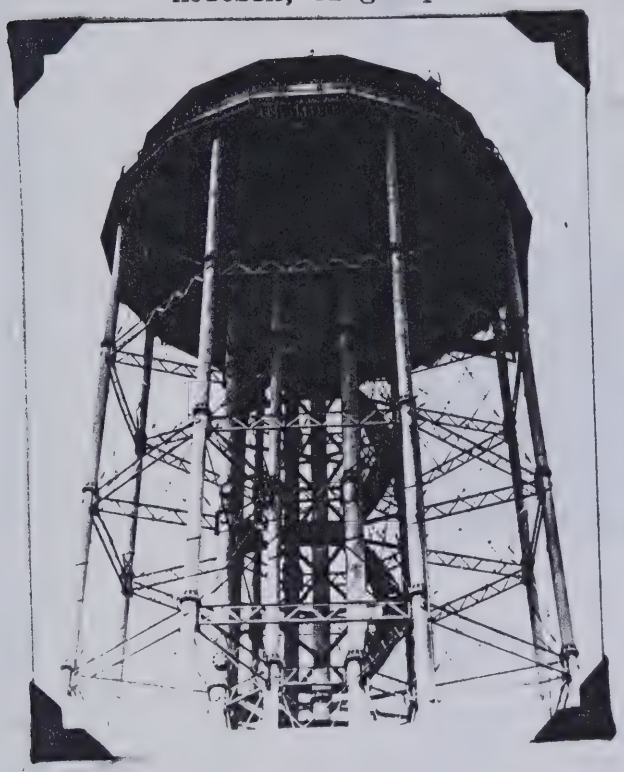
Observation posts were established at advantageous points, the water tower and roofs of the taller mills along the Creek, notably the Foo Foong and Foo Hsing Flour Mills, meeting all the requirements in a manner which left nothing to be desired. Rearing skyward on the very edge of the Chapei area, these posts afforded a clear, unobstructed view of the Shanghai war area, and the observers who drew these posts for their tour of duty were fortunate indeed to enjoy box seats in this drama of war, although their positions were not infrequently rather precarious when high explosive shells and aerial bombs of both factions split the atmosphere around them forcing them to seek refuge from flying shrapnel.

No. 7 - Looking up Soochow Creek along the American Sector. In the background can be seen the water tower utilized as an observation post by the Fourth United States Marines.

To these observation posts flocked newspaper representatives armed with passes issued by the defense area commander.

At 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon of 14 August, Admiral Harry E. Yarnell, Commander in Chief of the United States Asiatic Fleet, arrived in port in the U. S. S.

AUGUSTA, flagship of the fleet.



No.8 - The water tower in the Fourth Marine Sector from which Fourth Marine observers witnessed the Shanghai war.

No.9- Admiral Harry E. Yarnell, CinC Asiatic Fleet, watches the progress of the battle in the Chapei Area from a marine OP on one of the mills bordering Soochow Creek.

Midmorning of August 14th, coming on the heels of many and varied rumors as to their intentions, Chinese bombers staged the first Chinese aerial raid of the war, attacking the Kung Dah Cotton Mill on Yangtzepoo Road (a Japanese ammunition dump), the Japanese Consulate General, and the Japanese Flagship IDZUMO. Several hits were registered on the mill, but none on the other objectives. The Shanghai Power Company was also struck resulting in several casualties, including one American wounded. This attack was heralded by a violent outburst of anti-aircraft fire from all Japanese naval vessels in the vicinity, as well as land anti-aircraft guns of the Japanese forces. In general, the fire was as inaccurate and ineffective as the air raid.

No. 10 - H.I.J.M.S. IDZUMO, Flagship of the Japanese Third Fleet, from which Admiral Hasegawa directed the activities of the Japanese forces in Shanghai. Of 9180 tons displacement, 400 feet in length, with a complement of 658, carrying four 8", 40 caliber, eight 6", 40 caliber, and six 3" AA guns. Built for Japan by the English in 1899.

No. 11 - H.I.J.M.S. ITUKUSIMA (mine layer), of 2020 tons displacement, 328 feet in length, carrying complement of 235, diesel driven, built in 1929. Carries three 5.5", 50 caliber, guns, and two 3" AA guns.

No. 12 - Colonel Chas. F. B. Price, Commanding Fourth Marines, and Admiral Hasegawa, on the occasion of the latter's courtesy call at Headquarters, Fourth Marines, Shanghai.

In the afternoon, following a Japanese air raid of two planes on the Hungjao Airdrome, Chinese planes staged another attack concentrating on the Japanese flagship IDZUMO. No hits were scored, and Japanese seaplanes took to the air and gave chase to the invaders, but were outdistanced by the speedier Chinese planes. In their flight over the International Settlement, the Chinese planes dropped a bomb on Nanking Road, near the Bund, causing considerable damage to the well known Palace and Cathay Hotels, while two bombs fell in the French Concession damaging the New World Amusement Center building. Several thousand foreigners and Chinese were killed and wounded in consequence of this raid. The streets in the vicinity of these disasters literally ran with the blood of the dead and wounded, and there was a general exodus of guests from the two hotel buildings which had but

recently filled to capacity with foreigners and Chinese fleeing from the Hongkew district.

No. 13 - The Palace and Cathay Hotel bombings of August 14th. Settlement police are shown in the picture above.

No. 14 - Another view of the bombing of the Palace and Cathay Hotels in Shanghai.

A Chinese government spokesman in a subsequent press release announced that these bombings were not intentional, but that the bombs had dropped because of damage to the bomb racks caused by shrapnel from the Japanese anti-aircraft fire.

Members of the Shanghai Municipal Council Police were detailed to stations at all bridges and ferries leading into the marine sector for the purpose of direct supervision over the detention, questioning, and admittance of refugees, and others, attempting to enter the Settlement.

No. 15 - Occupants of a parked motor car killed instantly in the devastating blast which followed the rain of death on the Palace and Cathay Hotels on August 14th.

No. 16 - Another view of the scene of destruction and death in consequence of the Cathay-Palace bombing.

On the morning of August 16th Chinese junks jammed in Soochow Creek at Yu Ya Ching Bridge and Chinese troops commenced the laying of a pontoon bridge across them. The Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, was ordered to destroy the bridge and to prevent any Chinese troops from crossing to the south bank.

The American flag was hoisted over the vacated Japanese Barracks at the corner of Penang and Gordon Roads by the First Battalion. The barracks were then used by the Battalion Reserves. Later in the day the Fourth Marines was reenforced by the arrival of a landing force from the U. S. S. AUGUSTA comprised of a detachment of fifty marines and a machine gun platoon of fifty-seven blue jackets. The latter took over the responsibility for interior security thus enabling the Fourth Marines to throw all available men into the front lines.

No. 17 - Bomb damaged building just across Soochow Creek from American defense area.

In the afternoon, with the approval of the municipal authorities, the bamboo shacks along the bank of Soochow Creek in Sector "C" were destroyed as they interfered with observation and constituted an impediment in the field of fire.

The battalions were still busily engaged in digging in,

strengthening their barbed wire entanglements and sandbag emplacements. The communications section completed the installation of an inter-regimental hookup along the perimeter.

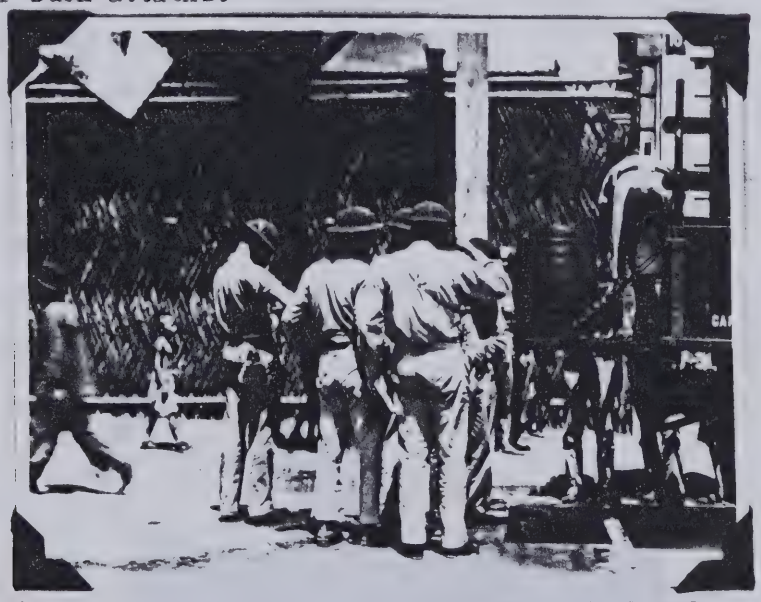
Major Ralph E. West in command of a marine patrol visited all the Japanese mills and other buildings in a search for firearms, bringing in a rather motely collection of antiquated rifles, shot guns, et cetera.

The British garrison was today augumented by 300 men from the naval units in port.

No. 18 - A Fourth Marine on front line duty displays a shell which has fallen in the vicinity of the dug-out.

On Tuesday, 17 August, the regiment suffered its first casualty - a hospital corpsman third class!! Floyd Arnold, the corpsman, was on duty in the hospital ward when a .50 caliber anti-aircraft bullet penetrated the roof, entered the ward and struck him in the hip. The wound was not serious.

In the afternoon a great mob of Chinese attacked two of their countrymen suspected of being spies and accused of poisoning public drinking water. The two were rescued by details from the Gordon Road Police Station, although interference on the part of two marines from the Intelligence Department of the Fourth Marines undoubtedly delayed the crowd sufficiently to enable the police to arrive before the two Chinese were beaten to death. The fracas occurred a half block from the regimental headquarters. Such incidents were common over a period of several weeks. The hatred of the Chinese masses rose to fever heat during this period, and the appearance in public of anyone resembling even slightly a Japanese, or suspected of pro-Japanese activities, was the signal for mob action. The marines on a number of occasions either rescued or were instrumental in rescuing the intended victims of such attacks.



No. 19 - Coffee time behind the lines. Food and hot drinks were prepared up town in the regular billet messes and delivered to the troops in sheltered spots behind the front lines.

The Sino-Japanese hostilities north of the creek and in the general Shanghai vicinity had by this time spread

to the Pootung area. Artillery was used rather prominently by both factions, the Japanese from positions near their naval headquarters pounded away at the North Station and Chapei, while naval vessels in the Whangpoo River bombarded Pootung as well as the Chapei area. The aviation units of both during the entire period were particularly active. The Japanese obviously were rapidly augmenting this branch of their service locally. Thus far, however, the Chinese had indisputably exhibited superior ability in the air. Numerous dog fights took place over the American lines, and planes were not infrequently brought down either behind the lines or in our very front yard. One Japanese plane exploded in mid-air at a low height with such a detonation and concussion as to severely shake up the whole of Shanghai. The explosion occurred almost over the regimental headquarters, and fragments of the almost disintegrated plane were found all over the area. The body of the aviator was never discovered.

The most serious problem and factor involved in the promiscuous use of the aeroplane over Shanghai was the indiscriminate and apparently poorly controlled use of anti-aircraft fire by the Japanese. Chinese aviation

No. 20 - A bomb explodes across the Creek from the Fourth Marines sector, dropped by a Japanese plane.

made frequent use of the air above the International Settlement, and, on each occasion, the Japanese littered the atmosphere with anti-aircraft fire, causing frequent injury to those in the Settlement area. Spent .50 caliber bullets, shrapnel fragments, and, at times, even live shells fell in the Settlement Area, detonating upon violent contact and causing injuries and death wherever they dropped.

On 17 August orders were issued by the regimental commander, in agreement with a plan adopted by the commandants of the other defense sectors, to divert all Chinese refugees approaching the marine lines to detour westward around the perimeter to the Chinese City.

The British troops were further reenforced this day by the arrival of the Second Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the First Battalion of the Ulster Rifles.

On the 18th the Second Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers relieved the Shanghai Volunteer Corps in the occupation of Sector "B", on the Fourth Marine's right. Thus once again this battalion is found serving shoulder to shoulder with American marines in a common cause. Its previous contact was with the American Marines in the Battle of Tientsin in the Boxer Rebellion.

The First Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles, were designated as the British Force Reserve, while the relieved Shanghai Volunteer Corps constituted reserves for the quelling of riot and disorders in the rear of the American lines.

At 1840 on Thursday, August 19th, a shell struck the well deck of the U. S. S. AUGUSTA killing one man and wounding eighteen others. Up to the time of this writing in December, the casualties suffered from this shell represented the heaviest American losses in the Shanghai vicinity.

No. 21 - "Tell it to the marines" and that is exactly what she is doing.

No. 22 - Another view of members of the Fourth Marines erecting barbed wire entanglements on the Soochow Creek front

For several days rumor had been rife to the effect that one or the other of the contending factors contemplated the use of poison gas on the Shanghai front. As a precautionary measure, therefore, all marines were issued gas masks and ordered to carry them at all times. Rumor, however, proved false, and at no time has conclusive proof been produced that poison gas was utilized by either faction.

On Friday, 20 August, one marine rifle company joined the Fourth Regiment, arriving from Cavite, P. I. It was at once organized as Company "C" of the Fourth Marines.

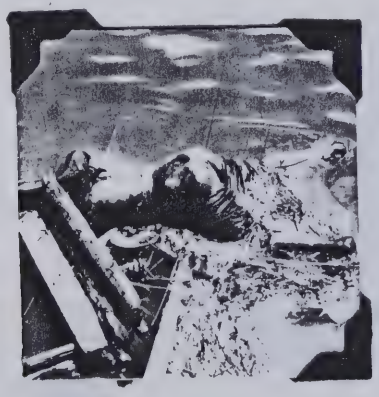
On this same date the British troops (Second Battalion, the Loyal Regiment) defending Sector "D" on the marine left were relieved by the Royal Ulster Rifles. This battalion was destined to pay heavily in dead and wounded during its occupation of the defense positions on the perimeter in Sector "D". Japanese war planes repeatedly machine-gunned their posts, and in some unaccountable manner artillerymen persistently erred in their range estimation in consequence of which high explosive shells burst and scattered their fragments among the Ulster Riflemen in the Jessfield Park area.

No. 23 - Bamboo shacks on the edge of Soochow Creek obstructed the field of fire of the Fourth Marines and were burned to the ground.

With the consent of the Shanghai Municipal Council, and through the efforts and financial assistance of philanthropic Chinese citizens, hospitals for the care of the Chinese wounded were established in the International Settlement, a goodly number in the American sector. By this time they were accomodating approximately 1400 soldiers, nearly half the maximum capacity.

No. 24 - Markham Road Bridge in the Fourth Marines defense area. Leads to the Chapei area then occupied by Chinese troops.

Monday, 23 August, proved another day of disaster in the International Settlement. A bomb, or shell, struck the



No. 25 - In the Creek along the Marine Sector.

second floor of one of Shanghai's largest department stores, the Sincere Company, situated on Nanking Road, the busiest thoroughfare of Shanghai. The result very closely approximated that of the New World Amusement Center bombing. Thousands were killed or wounded. A Fourth Marine despatch rider en route to the American Consulate General, who was nearing the Sincere Building at the time of the explosion, had a very narrow escape. He was thrown from his motorcycle, considerably shaken up, but escaped without injury other than a few bruises. Another shell, or bomb, struck the United States Navy Godown, but, fortunately, failed to explode. A subsequent inspection by military experts revealed that it was a 550 pound aerial bomb. Had it exploded the damage would have been inestimable, and many Marine Corps and naval officers would have suffered considerable financial losses through the destruction of household effects stored in the godown.

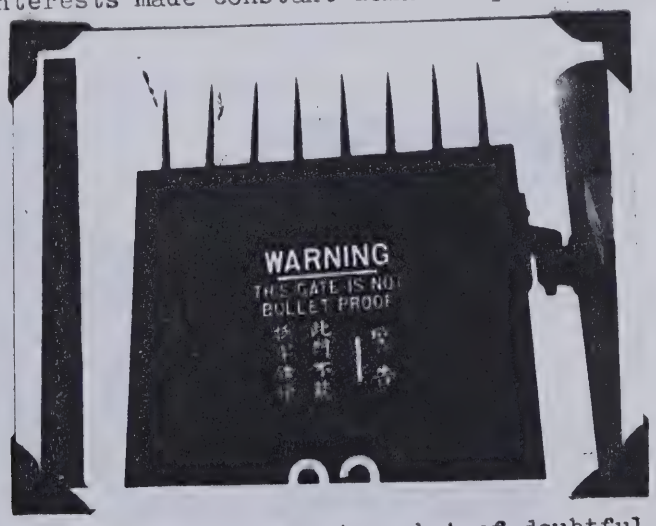
A new feature was introduced into the hostilities on the night of the 23rd when Chinese planes appeared over the Hongkew area and dropped incendiary bombs.

No. 26 - A scuttled ship forming part of the boom placed by the Chinese troops to impede the movement of Japanese naval vessels above Shanghai.

A detachment of 100 men of the Italian Royal Navy took over posts "A" to "E", inclusive, in Sector "D", relieving a portion of the Royal Ulster Rifles.

On 26 August the Fourth Marines were reenforced by the arrival of a second company of 102 men and 2 officers arriving from Cavite, P. I., on the U. S. S. GOLD STAR. They were organized as Company "G", Fourth Marines.

By the end of August the regiment was well ensconsed in its positions on the perimeter and well able to repulse a determined infantry attack. The security of these positions were effected, however, through herculean effort on the part of every officer and man. There were no idle moments or idle hands. At one time over four-fifths of the strength of the regiment was either on the main line of resistance, or on active patrol duty. At the outbreak of hostilities a detachment of nine marines was despatched to the premises of the American Consulate General for the security of that office and its personnel. American business interests made constant demands upon the regiment



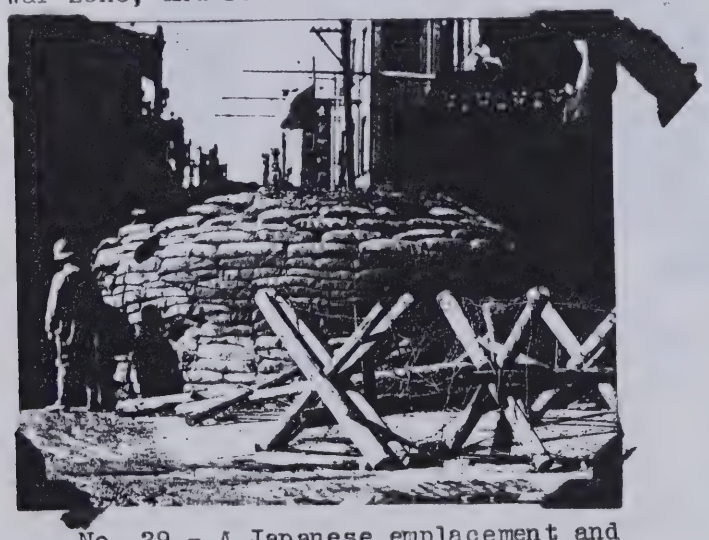
No. 27 - A timely warning, but of doubtful value in the excitement of the moment.

for marine guards, while tenders evacuating American nationals to connecting steamers off Woosung carried not only marine

escorts but a portable wireless set installed and operated by members of the Fourth Marines Communication Section who maintained uninterrupted communication with the Headquarters, Fourth Marines, during trips down the Whangpoo River.

No. 28 - A Chinese pill-box in Chapei.

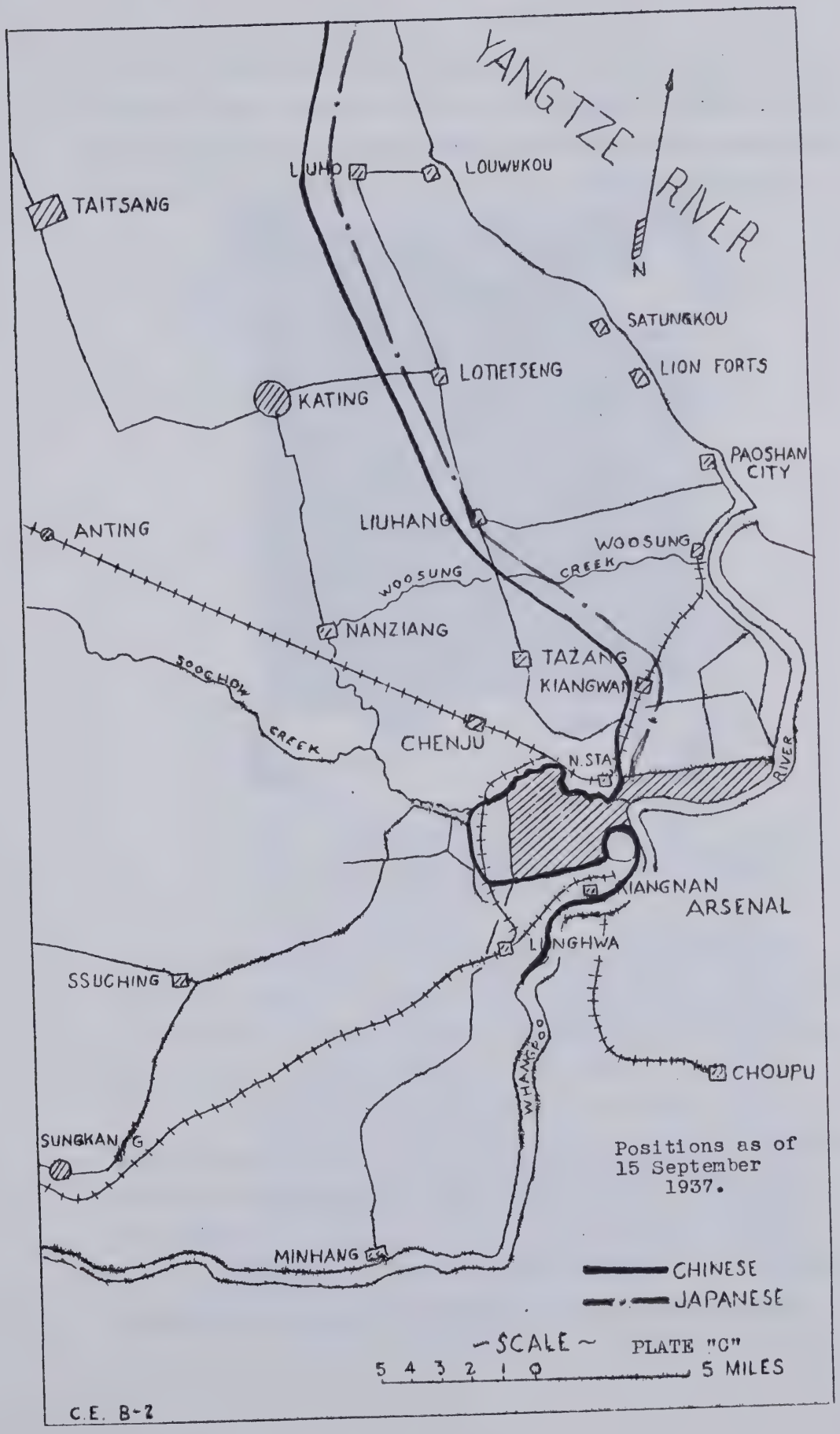
The cold storage plant holding the fresh supplies of the regiment was situated in the Yangtzepoo district, and, consequently, for some time was not accessible. However, after negotiations with the Japanese authorities, armed marine trucks entered the area, which was in the thick of the war zone, and reclaimed the entire store of supplies.



No. 29 - A Japanese emplacement and barricade.

No. 30 - Major Leland S. Swindler, USMC., Quartermaster, Fourth Marines, fondles a Chinese "cheese knife". Carried by Chinese soldiers.

No. 31 - A typical outside view of down town buildings situated near the Whangpoo bank.


YANGTZE RIVER
N
TAITSANG
LUHO
LOUWYKOU
SATUNGKOU
LIONFORTS
LOTIETSENG
KATING
PAOSHAN CITY
ANTING
LIUHANG
WOOSUNG
WOOSUNG CREEK
NANZIANG
TAZANG
KIANGWAN
SOOCHOW CREEK
CHENJU
N.STA
RIVER
KIANGNAN ARSENAL
LUNGHWA
SSUCHING
WHANGPOO
CHOUPU
SUNGKANG
MINHANG
Positions as of 15 September 1937.
CHINESE
JAPANESE
-SCALE-
5 4 3 2 1 0
5 MILES
PLATE "C"
C.E. B-2

Every effort was made in the American sector to maintain strict neutrality. On one occasion the passes issued press representatives permitting them to visit the more advantageous marine observation posts were cancelled because of

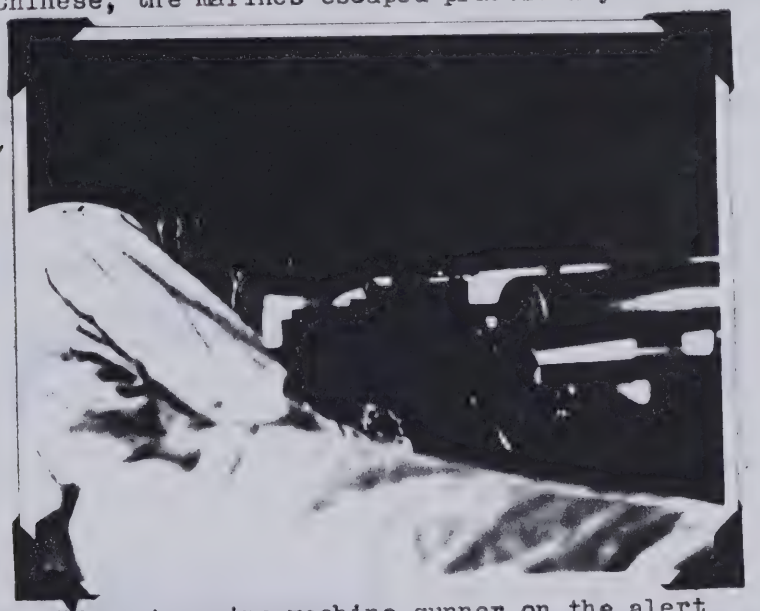
NO. 32 - Colonel Chas. F. B. Price, USMC., Commanding 4th Marines, greets Brigadier General John C. Beaumont, USMC., Commanding 2nd Marine Brigade, upon arrival at Shanghai.

infraction of some condition on this question under which they were issued. At various times both Chinese and Japanese were apprehended while engaged in surreptitious night signalling from the taller buildings in the area.

Simultaneous with the dawn of September, there was an intensification of Japanese air and artillery barrages apparently heralding the long touted but often delayed (?) "big push".

The interest of the Fourth Marines on the perimeter naturally kept pace with this increased air and artillery

activity for high explosive shells now fell with increasing frequency within the defense sector, contributing in no small degree to the stimulation of the mental and physical alertness of those on duty therein. The luck of the Irish certainly hovered over the marine lines for, while nearly every shell exacted heavy toll in either killed or wounded among Chinese, the marines escaped practically unscathed.



No. 33 - A marine machine gunner on the alert in a sandbag redout on the bank of Soochow Creek in Sector "C" (4th U.S. Marines) at Shanghai.

No. 34 - LtoR: Major M.A. Edson, USMC (4th Marines), Colonel Barchard, Commanding 2nd Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers, and Major Harrison, Royal Welch, on a tour of inspection.

On 7 September an anti-aircraft shell struck and exploded on the roof of Headquarters, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines. On the night of 8 September no less than nine Japanese 72mm shrapnel shells fell in the marine sector near the Foo Hsing Flour Mill, wounding thirteen Chinese. A few hours later a nine inch shell base plug struck marine post No. 4. On this same day and evening anti-aircraft and artillery shells fell at various points all over the International Settlement and French Concession, killing and wounding many Chinese civilians.

On 14 September 781 officers and men of the Italian Savoia Grenadiers disembarked and were assigned to the British Forces for defense duty in "B" Sector.

No. 35 - Ichang Road Bridge which was demolished by the Chinese troops prior to their withdrawal.

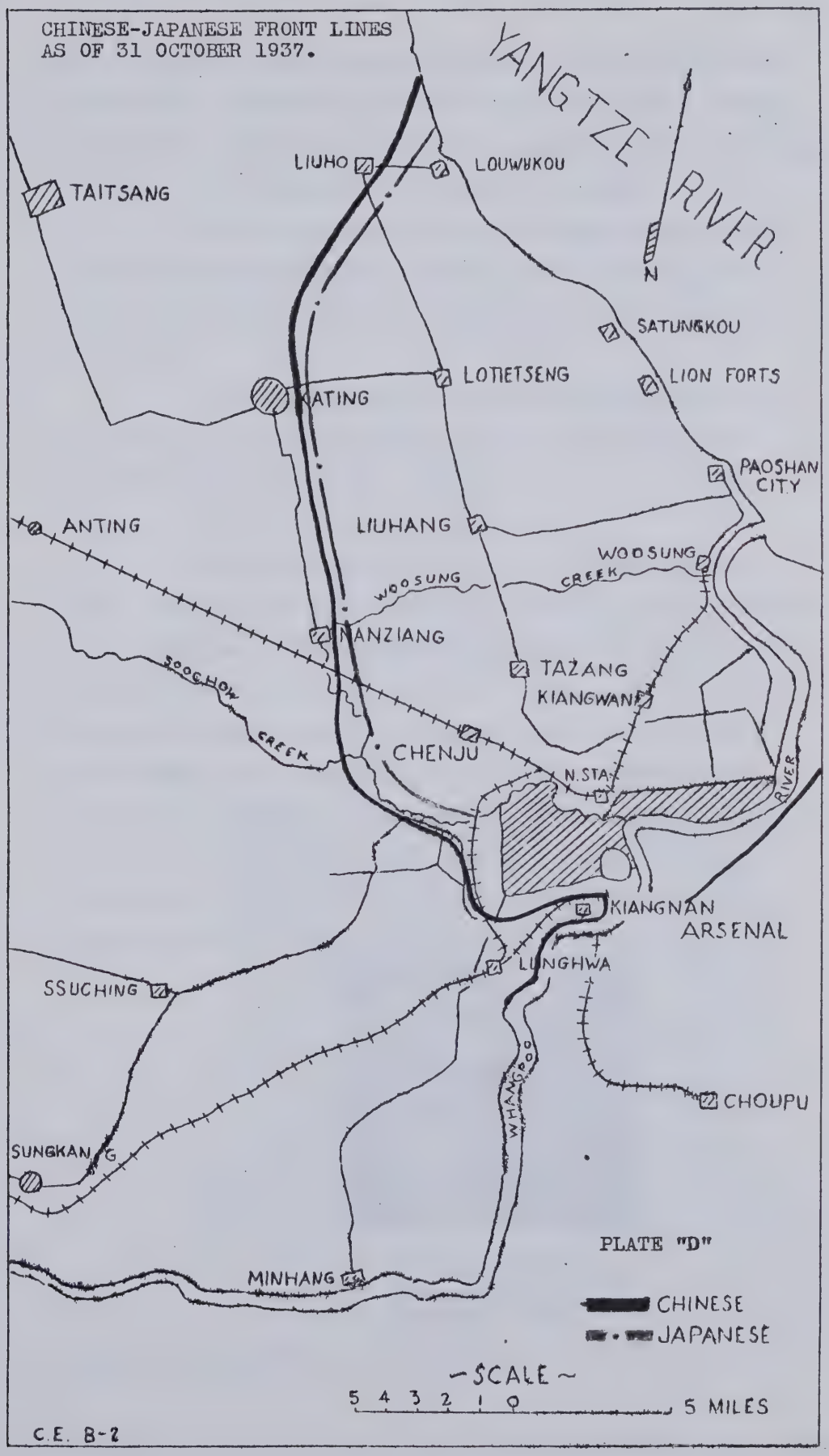
On the night of 18 September an anti-aircraft shell penetrated the roof of Billet 17 (on Ferry Road) with a terrific crash, passing through two decks and on into terra firma narrowly missing a member of the Fourth Marines asleep on his bed on the second deck. Needless to say, its passage was not unnoticed, and the cause of much restless slumber the remainder of the night.

On 19 September the Second Marine Brigade, consisting of the Brigade Headquarters Company, Sixth Marines, and Battery "F", AA Bn., arrived in the U. S. S. CHAUMONT and U. S. S. MARBLEHEAD, to reenforce the Fourth Marines. The Brigade Commander, Brigadier General John C. Beaumont, was no stranger to Shanghai having relinquished command of the Fourth Marines upon promotion to his present rank in June, 1936.

On the morning of 23 September the Sixth Marines relieved the Fourth Marines on the "C" Sector defense line, the latter regiment having occupied and held this line for forty-one consecutive days. It was a happy though tired Fourth that returned to billets on this day with prospects of a ten day vacation and barrack life with its superior comforts.

However, on this same day the First Battalion, Fourth Marines, was directed to furnish guards to report to the Shanghai Municipal Police for duty in connection with the safeguarding of rice shops throughout the Settlement. Rice, the staple food of the Chinese of this section, was scarce in the latter part of the hostilities around Shanghai, and its value climbed steadily until

No. 36 - A bomber has concentrated on this spot. (opposite Marine Sector)


CHINESE-JAPANESE FRONT LINES
AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1937.
YANGTZE RIVER
N
TAITSANG
LIUHO
LOUWUKOU
SATUNGKOU
LOTIETSENG
LION FORTS
KATING
PAOSHAN CITY
ANTING
LIUHANG
WOOSUNG
WOOSUNG CREEK
NANZIANG
TAZANG
KIANGWAN
SOOCHOW CREEK
CHENJU
N.STA.
RIVER
KIANGNAN ARSENAL
LUNGHWA
SSUCHING
WHANGPOO
CHOUPU
SUNGKANG
MINHANG
PLATE "D"
CHINESE
JAPANESE
~SCALE~
5 4 3 2 1 0
5 MILES
C.E. B-2

the Municipal Council assumed control of both distribution and price. On several occasions rice trucks were mobbed, and rioting crowds gathered at rice shops, hence the posting of marine guards together with municipal police.

On 24 September the Chinese troops dynamited the Ichang Road Bridge seriously damaging the northern end. Later in the day the Tsung Hsing Bridge was also partially destroyed.

For a comparison of the relative positions of the contending forces at this stage of the hostilities and their positions at the opening of the war, see Plate "C".

It is interesting to note that throughout the entire "war" in the vicinity of Shanghai the Japanese forces have relied for their ground work principally upon their mechanized units. For this reason, heavy rains resulted in a lull in activities, not only on land but in the air since planes could navigate the landing fields only with considerable danger. As is commonly known this section of China is principally a vast alluvial plain and heavy rains convert the countryside into a net work of shallow irrigation canals and the soil is of a soft, adhesive

No. 37 - Austrian type of gas mask carried by Chinese troops on Shanghai front.

quality which quickly bogs mechanized transportation.

On the first day of October, Company "E" (less two platoons) of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, proceeded via Shanghai Power Company tender to the Riverside Power Plant and relieved the Marine Detachment, U. S. S. SACRAMENTO as the defense force at that plant.

On 14 October a radioman on the U. S. S. AUGUSTA (American flagship) was slightly injured by a Japanese shell fragment, and a private of Company "D", Fourth Marines, while on duty at Post #2, near Markham Road Bridge, was wounded by a .25 calibre rifle bullet which penetrated his left shoulder.

During this entire period, with the exception of a few days on which rain fell heavily, the Sino-Japanese front was an inferno of belligerent activity. Insofar as the activities of the Fourth Marines were concerned, each succeeding day was practically a facsimile of the one preceding, the situation requiring every man to be on the alert every moment.

No. 38 - Chapei on fire. Through the center of the picture runs Soochow Creek. On the left can be seen the water tower on which the Fourth Marines maintained an observation post.

On 26th October forty-nine Japanese planes were counted over the Chenju area (just opposite the Marine sector) at one time, the large bombers dropping heavy missiles while the smaller planes attacked troops with light bombs and machine gun fire. Fierce fighting had ensued in the Tazang area for several weeks, the Japanese making a

No. 39 - Another view of Chapei burning. On the right may be seen the Yu Ya Ching Bridge, marking the right flank of the Marine sector. Just to the left is the large godown building of the Bank of China in which the isolated Chinese Battalion held forth for four days.

determined effort to occupy this village which commands important road junctions. It was conceded previously by foreign observers that the fall of this strategical point would force the Chinese troops to fall back on their reserve lines to the west of Shanghai.

The morning of 27 October witnessed an awe inspiring spectacle and one that is, fortunately, seldom to be seen. Tazang had fallen during the night and the Chinese troops were engaged in an orderly retreat, but

burning the entire Chapei district as they fell back. Great columns of smoke billowed skyward, gradually creeping westward until by nightfall of Wednesday, 27 October, the skyline of Shanghai for a distance of nearly seven miles was illuminated by a holocaust that dwarfed the Chicago conflagration.

No. 40 - The fire raging opposite the marine sector.

No. 41 - A close up of the Bank of China godown in which the Chinese Battalion made its four day stand.

A rather unique situation was created when the Chinese troops in withdrawing failed to transmit orders to this effect to an isolated battalion stationed in the Bank of China godown, near Yu Ya Ching Bridge, on the right flank of that portion of the American Sector guarded by the Fourth Marines.

No. 42 - A street scene in Hongkew outskirts, showing emplacements and entrenchments thrown up in the street.

For four days this battalion of approximately five hundred men held the godown, although the building was surrounded by Japanese troops, with the exception of the southern side which abutted the northern bank of Soochow Creek. Sanctuary was tendered by the British Forces and declined. However, on the night of 30 October Japanese efforts culminating in point blank artillery fire, together with pressure exerted by neutrals endangered by the Chinese stand, effected the evacuation

of the battalion. In the lull which marked the machine gun fire sweeping the building, the battalion filed across Soochow Creek and surrendered to the British troops at about two o'clock on the morning of 31 October.

No. 43 - A scene of destruction typical of the Hongkew district as the scene of battle shifted to the west of Shanghai.

No. 44 - A damaged building in the Chapei area. Note gaping holes left by artillery fire. Administration Building, North Station.

With the evacuation of this isolated battalion from the area facing the American sector, the troubles of the Fourth Marines at least were practically over with. The trials and tribulations of the British forces on the left of Sector "D", west of the American Sector, will not be dealt with here. Mention has already been made herein of the fact that they suffered heavily in dead and wounded in the Jessfield area in the artillery and aviation duels of the Chinese and Japanese after the establishment of the new Chinese lines indicated in Plate "D".

No. 45 - Another view of the destruction wrought in the Chapei area.

Before bringing this article to a close, however, mention must be made of that unit which was formed at the crux of the initial emergency when the situation was so beclouded and the outlook so uncertain that everyone prepared for the worst: the Fourth Marines Civilian Emergency Auxiliary. More than fifty local Americans volunteered for service in the event of extreme emergency. They were then assembled in a group and at regular intervals weekly drilled by competent noncommissioned officers of the regiment.

officers of the regiment.

No. 46 - Colonel Chas. F. B. Price, USMC., inspects the Fourth Marines Civilian Emergency Auxiliary.

No. 47 - The Fourth Marines marching down Bubbling Well Road en route to the Shanghai Race Course for parade. This picture was taken prior to the Sino-Japanese outbreak.

No. 48 - Japanese tanks on the streets of Shanghai.

No. 49 - A section of the Japanese "Victorious March" through Shanghai when a bomb disturbed the equanimity of the marching troops.

No. 50 - Japanese truck with anti-aircraft gun mounted. A part of the parade.

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